Idaho Yesterdays

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On the Trail of Lewis and Clark

THE RIDDLE OF HUNGERY CREEK SEPTEMBER 18-20, 1805, AND JUNE 16, 18,25, 1806

by Steve F. Russell

Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

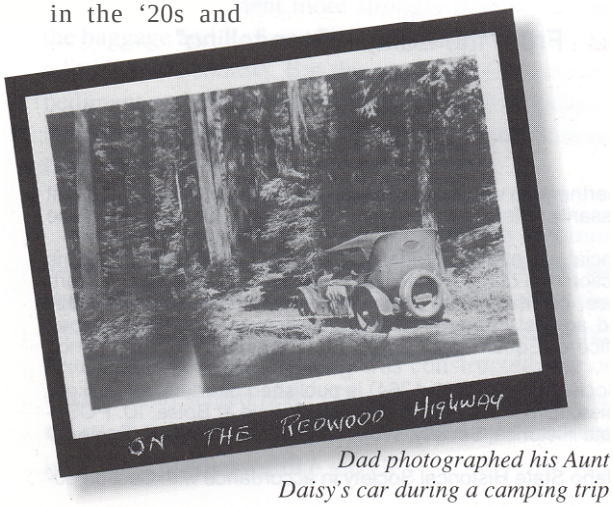
From The Editor

"Storytelling"

I don't remember my parents reading to me at bedtime when I was small-probably because, as an only child during World War II, I picked up reading very young. What I do remember, vividly, is what my father and I called a gabfest.

Dad would sit by my bed and reminisce about experiences in his own young life. Born in 1908 in southern California, he grew up in a succession of small towns around the Los Angeles Basin. He and his brothers and sister-all "good kids"-lived in a world incredibly different from mine only thirty-two years later; but I knew them, and I could imagine them as they went to school, lived on a farm in the San Fernando Valley (briefly: my grandfather was a genius at building and repairing telephone switchboards, but he was no farmer), visited aunts and uncles, camped at Yosemite, drove out to explore the Mojave desert.

Whether consciously or not, my educator father was teaching me as he shared his earlier experiences. Much of it was family history, of course: the lives of my grandfather and his siblings, my father and his, and their understanding of where their parents had come from. But a lot of it was community history too. My images of southern California-a much maligned part of the West-have been shaped far more by dad's verbal snapshots of life there in the '20s and '30s than by any popular or scholarly writing. He never made life look better than it had been for his family, nor did he romanticize the real poverty that split up the youngsters for a time. It was a part of who they were, and thus of why they were the way they were.



Dad photographed his Aunt Daisy's car during a camping trip in June of 1925.

This was storytelling of a very special sort one person's personal experiences handed on to another. It may have set me on the path a profession of finding and validating and sharing such stories, which is what history really is.

As this issue demonstrates, though, other kinds of stories than narratives like my dad's or their written-down equivalent can be found and studied and confirmed and shared. A building may be a story in itself, as Boise's landmark railroad depot is: a story not only of civic pride and effort but of civic disappointment when rail service was terminated and the future of the depot itself seemed bleak or confused. A place may contain a story, as Hungery Creek does, a story recorded not only in journals from the Lewis and Clark expedition but also from the trail tread in the area and the constraints of the surrounding terrain. And a report-which is actually, in this case, an effort to convince East Coast businessmen to fund irrigation works in Idaho Territory-tells a story of far more than just the agricultural allure of the Payette Valley.

The maps that accompany Steve Russell's story of Hungery Creek are storytellers too, in detail far more minute than the minutes of a Chamber of Commerce meeting. And the maps that accompany both the article on the railroad and the Payette Valley report-actually parts of the same huge map-are storytellers too. Photographs of Boise's various depots-and especially of the mainline celebration in April of 1925-are explanation and confirming evidence of the capital city's excitement.

Sharing stories (and sharing the evidence behind the stories, whether in footnotes or in sections like Steve Russell's explanation of how he does on-the-ground research), is what this journal is all about. My dad read it with great pleasure, enjoying other people' stories as much as I enjoyed his. We hope our readers do the same

Judy Austin

On *the Trail of Lewis and Clark*

THE RIDDLE OF HUNGERY CREEK

SEPTEMBER 18-20, 1805, AND JUNE 16, 18,25, 1806

by Steve F. Russell

Fascination with the route and camping places of Lewis and Clark has remained strong for more than 100 years. With the approaching bicentennial of the Corps of Discovery, this interest is only intensifying. What is more, increasing numbers of people are interested in following the route themselves-not always a wise idea, as is certainly the case with the area described here.

This is the first in a series of articles that Steve Russell is preparing on his research of the route and camping sites as the Corps of Discovery crossed the mountains from the Missouri River basin to the Columbia River basin. Their passage through Hungery Creek and Fish Creek took them across what is now the Clearwater National Forest of north-central Idaho. They came through the area four times, once in 1805 and three times in 1806. The documentation of their various journals leaves us with a wealth of clues as to the route they followed, although William Clark's maps for this area are of limited value because of their topographic distortion.

The author, who was born in Lewiston, is an electrical engineer on the faculty of Iowa State University. His work on this project has grown as he has been more and more intrigued by the landscape crossed by the Corps-the campsites, the tread of prehistoric and historic trails, and the often very difficult terrain. His bibliography appears at the end of the article.

History of the Area

The Nez Perce

Before they obtained the horse, the Nez Perce used foot trails to travel to important camping areas and family sites in the mountains, but these trails were probably very limited. After they began using horses for travel, things were different: frequent and relatively easy travel over a wide area became possible. Of the numerous Nez Perce horse trails, four were significant for this research.

The first was the southern branch of the Nez Perce trail followed by Lewis and Clark through Hungery, Fish, and Eldorado Creeks. The second was a trail that went from upper Hungery Creek over Austin Ridge and down to Lolo Forks and then on to Musselshell Meadows. The third was the northern branch of the Nez Perce trail that went over Snowy Summit. The fourth route was the old Pete King Trail that went from the Lochsa River northward along the ridges to the Lolo Trail at Pete Forks Junction. It is highly probable that this trail had its origins in an ancient Nez Perce trail which connected villages on the upper Clearwater River with the,Lolo Trail. In fact, it was probably the main link that connected the trails at the junction of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers with the LoloTraii. For this article, the key part of the Pete King Trail is the segment that went north and south through Fish Creek Meadows. Most of this trail has been abandoned, and the lower elevations of the trail have been significantly impacted by logging activities. The upper trail was incorporated into the fire-suppression trail system by the Forest Service.

The northern branch, which went over Snowy Summit, is the easiest route of the Lolo Trail System to follow into the Weippe Prairie. It is this route that George B. Nicholson chose for the Lewiston and Virginia City wagon road survey in 1866 and the route over which the Bird-Truax Trail would be constructed.! Why Lewis and Clark followed the southern branch through such rugged country when a much easier route (Snowy Summit) was available is still puzzling. My opinion is that the Hungery Creek route was used in early spring and late fall (an early-late route) when Snowy Summit was buried in deep snow. Another possibility is that this route was the one pointed out to unknown strangers entering the land of the Nez Perce.[2]

Olin D.Wheeler's explorations, undertaken in observance of the Corps of Discovery's centennial, led him to choose the route from Hungery Creek to Austin Ridge and then down to Lolo Forks. This was no doubt a good Nez Perce trail in his time, but the route does not match the journal descriptions or courses and distances.[3]

Table 1. List of Reference Locations Along the Route

Reference Name	Distance Miles	NAD27 LAT/LON Location	General Location
June 18, 1806 *Salmon Trout Camp*	0.0	461754.9N 1153838.0W	Confluence of Dollar and Eldorado Creeks
September 20, 1805 *Ridge Camp*	1.2	461851.4N 115387.4W	Ridge between Dollar and Six-Bit Creeks
September 20, 1805 (Party "nooned)	4.4	4620 16.5N 1153428.6W	Upper Fish Creek Meadows
June 16, 1806 *Horsesteak Meadow Camp*	4.8	462234.9N 1153218.3W	Hungery Creek near Windy Saddle
June 25, 1806 *Buffalo Robe Camp*	1.0	462234.8N 1153129.2W	Hungery Creek above Yew Creek
September 19, 1805 *Starboard Ravine Camp*	0.3	462246.0N 1153116.7W	Hungery Creek above Yew Creek
June 17, 1806 *Retrograde March Camp*	1.6	46231O.1N 1152948.1 W	Hungery Creek below ObiaCreek
September 18, 1805 *Hungery Creek Camp*	0.5	46233.9N 1152925.1 W	Hungery Creek below ObiaCreek
June 30, 1806 *Foot of the Mountain*	0.8	462320.7N 1152836.2W	Hungery Creek below ObiaCreek
June 17, 1806 *Snowbank Cache*	1.3	46243.8N 1152746.7W	Ridge below Green Saddle

The distances were obtained from topographic maps using a geographic information system (GIS). The trail miles would be somewhat longer for an actual survey. The geo-reference is North America Datum 1927 (NAD 27). The positions were converted from their original database in. UTM coordinates to geodetic coordinates.

Finally, there was the Pete King Trail,[4] whose function was to connect the Lola Trail with the Nez Perce villages on the Clearwater River. The Hungery Creek route may have been a branch of this trail for travelers heading eastward and wanting to cut off the longer distance needed to go over Rocky Ridge.

The most important site of the Hungery-Fish Creek route is the meadow on upper Fish Creek where the trail crossed the creek. First of all, it was a pleasant stop on the old trail in this vast wilderness of trees, brush, and dry ridges, where horses *could* feed and water and where travelers could rest and be refreshed by the beautiful meadow and the small, clear stream. It provided food in the form of roots and maybe even small game. The Nez Perce probably used the meadow for several hundred years before Lewis and Clark crossed it. As we can read in the journals, on several occasions the Corps found it a convenient and pleasant place to stop, rest, feed and water horses, and eat their noon meal.

The Corps of Discovery, 1805-06

The key part of the research that led to the author's route was the discovery of so many excellent comments about the meadow at Fish Creek. Clark and six hunters crossed it first on September 19, 1805. Clark remarks: "passed over a mountain, *and the heads of a branch of hungary Creek*,"[5] Lewis crossed it with the rest of the party on the following day. He remarks: "at one oclock we halted [X: *on a small branch runing to the left]* and made a hearty meal on our horse beef ...." Joseph Whitehouse, who was with Lewis. tells us that they "followed down a ridge, came to a Spring run and dined Sumptiously on our horse meat."

On their return in 1806, they crossed the meadow twice on the first trip eastward over the Lolo Trail (June 16 eastbound and June 18 westbound), and for the final time on June 25.[6] On the 16th, Patrick Gass reports that "we halted at *a handsome stream where there was some grass* for our horses"; Lewis reports: "we arrived at a small branch of hungry creek...here is a handsome glade in which we found some grass for our horses"; Clark reports:"we nooned it or dined on *a Small Creek in a small open \lally where we found Some grass* for our horses to eate, altho Serounded by Snow ..."; and John Ordway tells us: "about noon we halted at *a Small branch & green*[7] to dine."

On the 18th, Lewis remarks: "by 1 P.M. we returned to *the glade on the branch of hungry Creek* where we had dined on the 16th inst. here we again halted and dined"; Gass reports: "We halted for dinner at the same place where we dined on the 16th..."; Ordway tells us that "about noon we halted to dine at the San,e place we dined on the 16th Inst....the 2 Fields stayed here to hunt."

The meadow at Hungry Creek, reduced in size by two hundred years' worth of tree growth. Photo courtesy Larry Jones.

On the 25th Clark reports that "at 11 A.M. we arrived at *the branch of hungary Creek* where we found Jo. & R. Fields. They had not killed anything. here we halted and dined and our guides overtook us. At this place the squaw' Collected a parcel of roots of which the Shoshones Eat. it is a Small knob root a good deel in flavour and Consistency like the Jerusolem artichoke."[9] Gass reports: "At noon we halted *at the creek* where the two men were hunting...."

We can summarize their descriptions of the meadow on Fish Creek. It was a flat, open area with horse feed next to a small, clear, spring-fed stream. The meadow featured a plant that they thought was like the Jerusalem artichoke.

Other geographic locations on the route are less colorful and detailed but still helped me locate the camps and the trail. These were the Hungery Creek meadow where the horse was killed, the starboard ravine where Lewis camped, and the foot of the mountain where they left Hungery Creek and ascended to the main dividing ridge.

The Twentieth Century

The first documented non-Indian use of the Hungery-Fish Creek area in this century appears to be a primitive trapper cabin built around 1900.[10] It was located at the upper forks of Fish Creek, on the north side and a few yards east of the Pete King Trail (Forest Service Trail #230). Lewis and Clark used the meadow area upstream a hundred yards from this cabin during

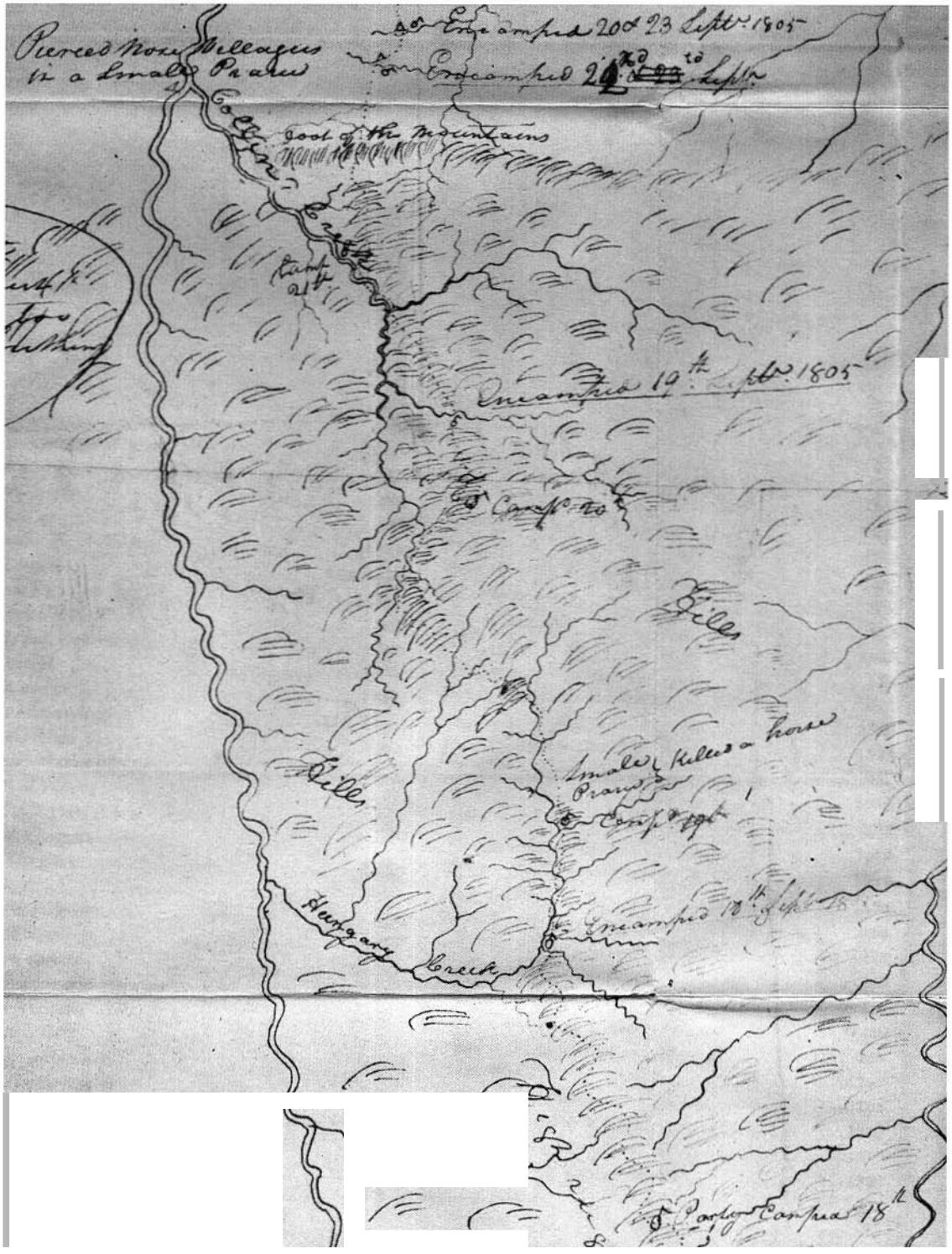

Pierced Nose Villages
in a Small Prairie
Encamped 20 & 23 Sept. 1805
Encamped 21 Sept.
Foot of the Mountains
Encamped 19th Sept. 1805
Encamped
Hills
Hills
Small Prairie
Hungary Creek
Encamped 18th Sept.
Encamped 18th

Figure 1.

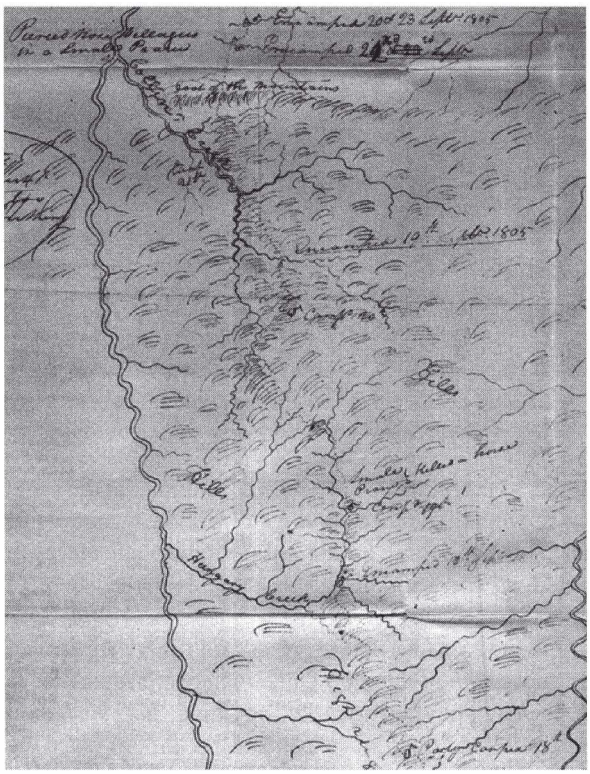


Figure 1. *Clark's large-scale map for the route from Dry Camp to Weippe Prairie. North* is *to the right.*

their several times through it. A "ranger station" cabin (Fish Creek Ranger Station) was built on the site (possibly about 1905) and was used sparingly until about 1916, when the station was abandoned and burned.[11] Today, the meadow has no structures but is used by hunters and recreationists. There is a large game lick very near the meadow, located between the forks of the creek. It looks natural but may have been started by the salting of cattle and then game.

The Fish Creek Meadows have seen decades of livestock grazing. In 1924, sheep were using the Obia Creek and Boundary Peak areas and probably used the meadows in this area of Fish Creek.[12] Starting about 1937, permits to graze cattle were given for the Boundary Peak area, which included these meadows.

The upper meadows were accessed by the sheep driveway that passed up Austin Ridge. Early aerial photos show a very wide stock driveway on the main ridge with several access trails into Fish Creek. Forest fires in the first third of the 1900's opened large areas to the growth of grass suitable for grazing. Grazing continued until the forest started reclaiming the open hillsides by replanting and natural reseeding. Today, the land has still not healed from the fires and over-grazing that occurred. This is particularly evident on Bowl Butte.

The Jackson family l3had a large cow camp operation based at Boundary Peak. The cattle grazed the open hillsides and the meadows in Fish and Hungery Creeks. In the early 1990's, a log cabin and outhouse were still standing at the old cow camp. The last people to use the Boundary Peak grazing allotments before they were ended were Gus and Don Denton. Later, Gus Denton bought the LochsaLodge, on U.S. 12 west of Lolo Pass, and has operated it for many years.

Roads were finally built into the Fish Creek area on the south side of the drainage, primarily for logging access. A road was built to the lookout at Boundary Peak and extended down past the Jackson Cow Camp but then dead ended. Plans to continue the Boundary Peak road down Fish Creek to the Lochsa River were not carried out. Trail #69 was built from Windy Saddle northward to Obia Creek, and additional trails were built up to Rocky Ridge and down Hungery Creek. Trails have also been constructed by hunters on the ridges to the north and south of Hungery Creek.

Previous Research Results

The route through Hungery Creek and across the mountains and ridges to Eldorado Creek has been in question since research was started on the route of Lewis and Clark over a century ago. Olin D. Wheeler researched and crossed the Lolo Trail beginning in 1897 and published his estimation of the entire Lolo Trail route of Lewis and Clark in 1904. He traveled into Hungery Creek with a guide and attempted to locate the route at a time when there was still only minor intrusion by modern civilization. Wheeler apparently followed an established Nez Perce trail, but his route was in very poor agreement with the journals west of Hungery Creek. Reuben G. Thwaites attempted to locate the route in his edition of the Lewis and Clark Journals, published in 1904 and 1905.[14] Thwaites used George B. Nicholson as a reference for the locations-an excellent choice since Nicholson had been over most of it in 1866 with a Nez Perce guide. Unfortunately, Nicholson was never through Hungery and Fish Creeks.

In the century after Wheeler and Thwaites, there have been additional attempts to locate the trail and camps. John (Jack) Harlan explored the Lolo Trail in the 1920'sand 1930's and wrote several newspaper articles about his findings.[15] He located some of the camps and also promoted the erecting of plaques and rock cairns

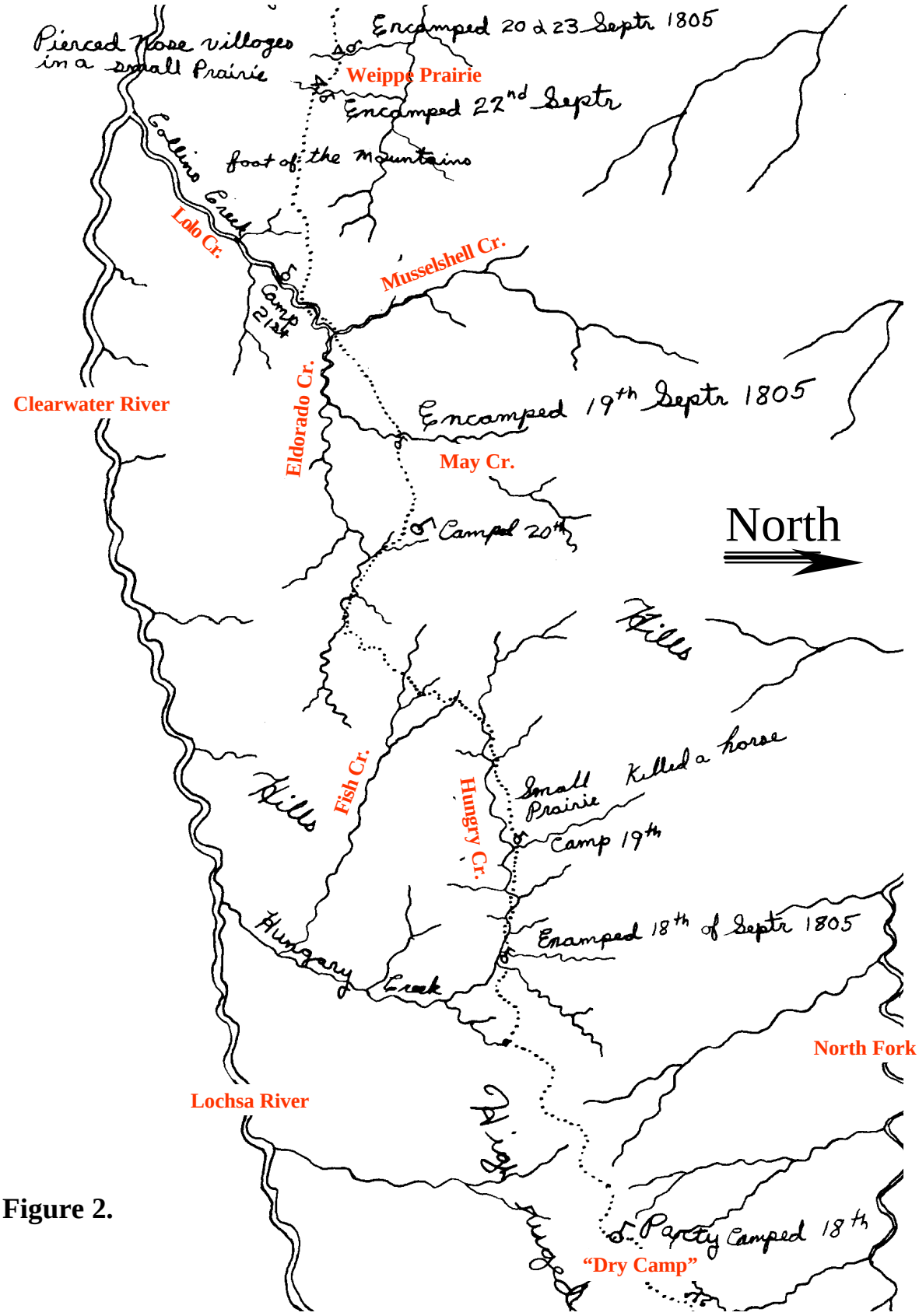

Pierced Nose villages in a small Prairie
Encamped 20 & 23 Septr 1805
Weippe Prairie
Encamped 22nd Septr
foot of the Mountains
Collins Creek
Ldlo Cr.
Musselshell Cr.
Camp 21st
Eldorado Cr.
Clearwater River
Encamped 19th Septr 1805
May Cr.
Camped 20th
North
Hills
Fish Cr.
Hungry Cr.
Small Prairie
Killed a horse
Camp 19th
Hills
Encamped 18th of Septr 1805
Hungary Creek
North Fork
Lochsa River
Party Camped 18th
"Dry Camp"

Figure 2.

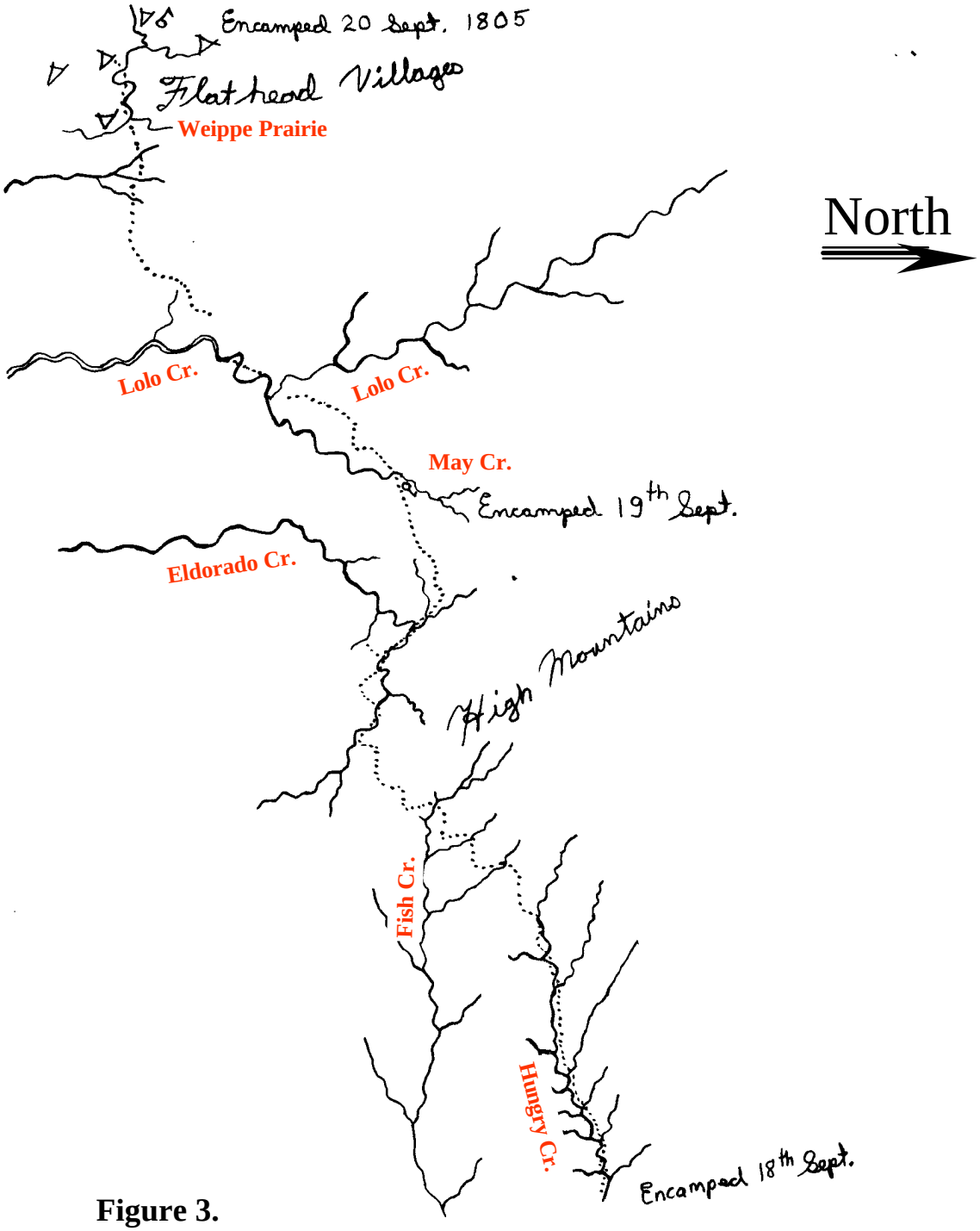

Encamped 20 Sept. 1805
Flathead Villages
Weippe Prairie
North
Lolo Cr.
Lolo Cr.
May Cr.
Encamped 19th Sept.
Eldorado Cr.
High Mountains
Fish Cr.
Hungry Cr.
Encamped 18th Sept.

Figure 3.

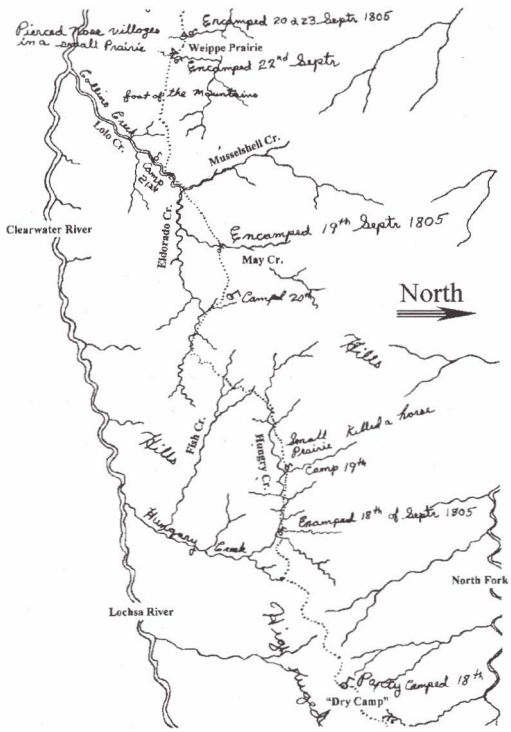
along the trail. His project was not fully completed, and the plaques have long since disappeared. Harlan's work is of little use in the Hungery-Fish Creek areas because he believed the route was up Fish Creek and into the Frenchman Butte area, which is well south of the actual route. It could be that he did not properly correct for magnetic declination when he reviewed the courses and bearings in the journals.

The most effective effort was by Ralph S. Space,16 forest supervisor for the Clearwater National Forest from 1954to 1963. His work is considered by many to be the best effort up to that time and his trail location and campsites appear on national forest maps and on USGS topographic maps. His results are widely accepted by the general public and he was a significant consultant to the Moulton edition of the journals.

In 1966, John Peebles published his location of the trail and campsites in this journal. Peebles and Space are in close agreement as to the location of the trail and the campsites.[17]

In the century between Lewis and Clark and Olin Wheeler, several travelers documented the Lolo Trail route; unfortunately, none passed through Hungery Creek. In 1831, John Work led a fur brigade over the

Figure 2. Scrivener copy of Clark's large-scale map, showing selected modern geographic place names for reference.



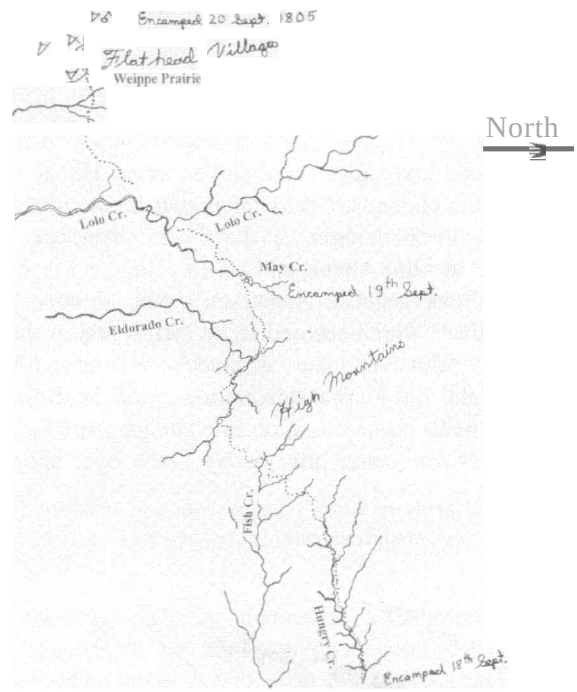


Figure 3. Scrivener copy of Clark's small-scale map, showing selected modern geographic place names for reference.

Northern Nez Perce route. I have done research on his journal and concluded that he took the Snowy Summit branch. In 1854, John Mullan went over the Lolo Trail as part of his Pacific Rail Road Survey, but my research concludes that he also took the Snowy Summit branch.

In 1866, George Nicholson, who traveled the entire Northern Nez Perces Trail with the Nez Perce guide Tah-Tu-Tash, estimated the route of Lewis and Clark through Hungery Creek. He included a crude map of it in his Lolo Trail map of 1898 that was used by Thwaites in his edition of the journals. As noted above, Nicholson followed the Snowy Summit branch and did not go through Hungery Creek.

Some more recent trail researchers remain anonymous. I have seen survey flagging evidence of past research that I have been unable to learn about. For example, there is old flagging around Rocky Point and along Route-B of Figure 7.

In 1985, I started to do research on the exact location of the trail tread and sites along the Lolo Trail. In 1994 I did a computer analysis of the Hungery-Fish Creek route and followed up in subsequent years with

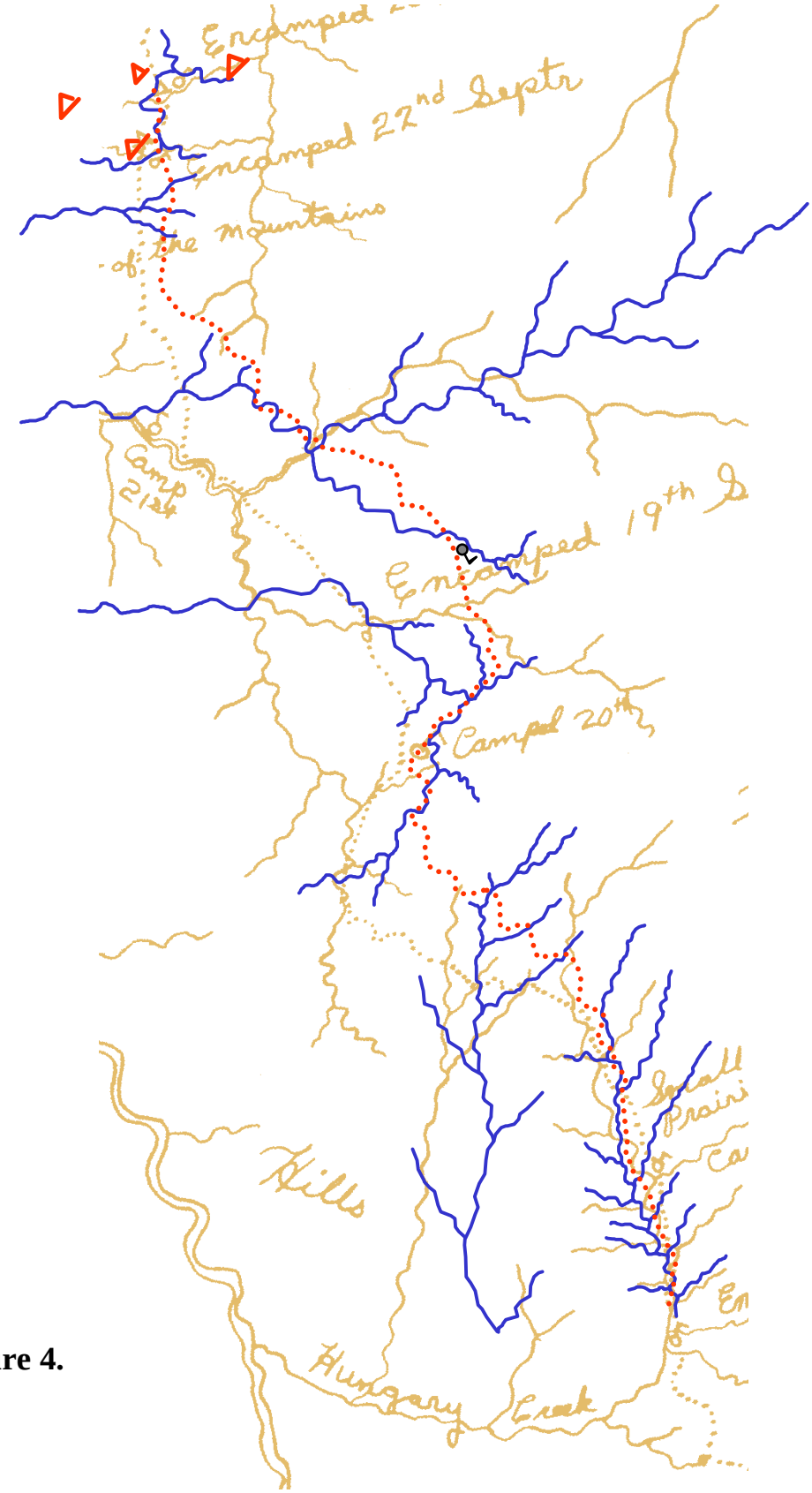

Encamped 22nd Septr
of the Mountains
Camp 21st
Encamped 19th
Camped 20th
Hills
Hungary Creek

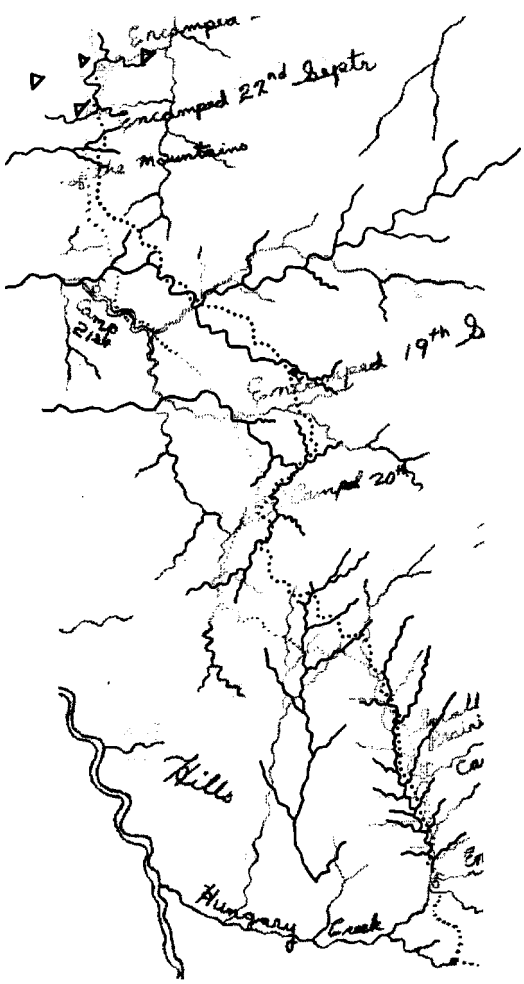
Figure 4.

different day-long field trips into those canyons to locate the trail. Since then I have been working on my documentation of the trail.

Current Research Results

The Lewis and Clark route stayed along Hungery Creek for the entire four-plus miles that it was in the canyon. My initial thought was that the trail went out of the canyon at Obia Creek and on the ridge north of Hungery Creek because Nicholson's map showed a diversion there which seemed to be mentioned in the journals. However, the distances between the campsites and the journal descriptions precluded this location. I made numerous hikes into Hungery and Fish Creeks over the years; always day hikes over short distances looking for trail segments in specific areas. The ridges into Hungery Creek are navigable by cow trails, hunter trails, and Forest Service trails. The cow trails are now becoming obscure but the hunter trails are used every year and maintained to minimum standards necessary to accommodate horses. I have seen recent evidence of chain-saw clearing on some of the trails.

Figure 4. Overlay of Clark's large-scale and small-scale maps, showing disagreements in topography and trail location.



Confusion about the Hungery Creek route arose for two reasons. Past researchers were willing to interpret the journal distances literally in spite of the fact that the Corps of Discovery overestimated distances in rough going. In some circumstances, the distances are exaggerated by a factor of 2:1. Second, there is an amazingly coincidental agreement with the recorded topography at a 1:1 distance factor. It was this second factor that was such an impediment to my accepting the route that I finally discovered. By hiking Hungery Creek, I gained their experience of overestimating the distance and, even with my years of experience, was amazed at how I could not do accurate estimates unless I actually paced the route.[18] The tread of the old trail exists in small segments; in some places it is strong and in others nonexistent. I doubt that this trail saw the traffic the northern branch did, so it was never deeply worn to begin with. Also, the trail along the steep side hills was easily eroded by gravity; when forest fires laid it bare, it rapidly eroded. In other places on the Lolo Trail, I've seen a foot-deep tread disappear within fifty yards thanks to erosion after a fire. Lastly, disuse is the biggest factor in the disappearance of a trail tread. The Hungery Creek route was probably abandoned shortly before the 1830's in favor of the route over Snowy Summit and through Musselshell Meadows.

Finding the trail and campsite locations has been a very iterative process. I spent years working on other parts of the Lolo Trail system before gaining the necessary experience and research data needed to work on the Hungery-Fish Creek area. I began by studying Clark's large-scale map for the trail from Dry Camp to Weippe Prairie. A portion of his map is shown in Figure 1 (page 22).20 When I compared the creeks and rivers, trail route, and campsite locations to a modem topographic map, it was obvious that there were many distortions. By careful comparison of the creeks and rivers for both maps, I was able to determine some of the modem place names for these features. These are shown in Figure 2 (page 23) using a scrivener version of Clark's map that I prepared to improve clarity.

Clark also made a smaller-scale map that he included on a page in the journals. A scrivener version of this

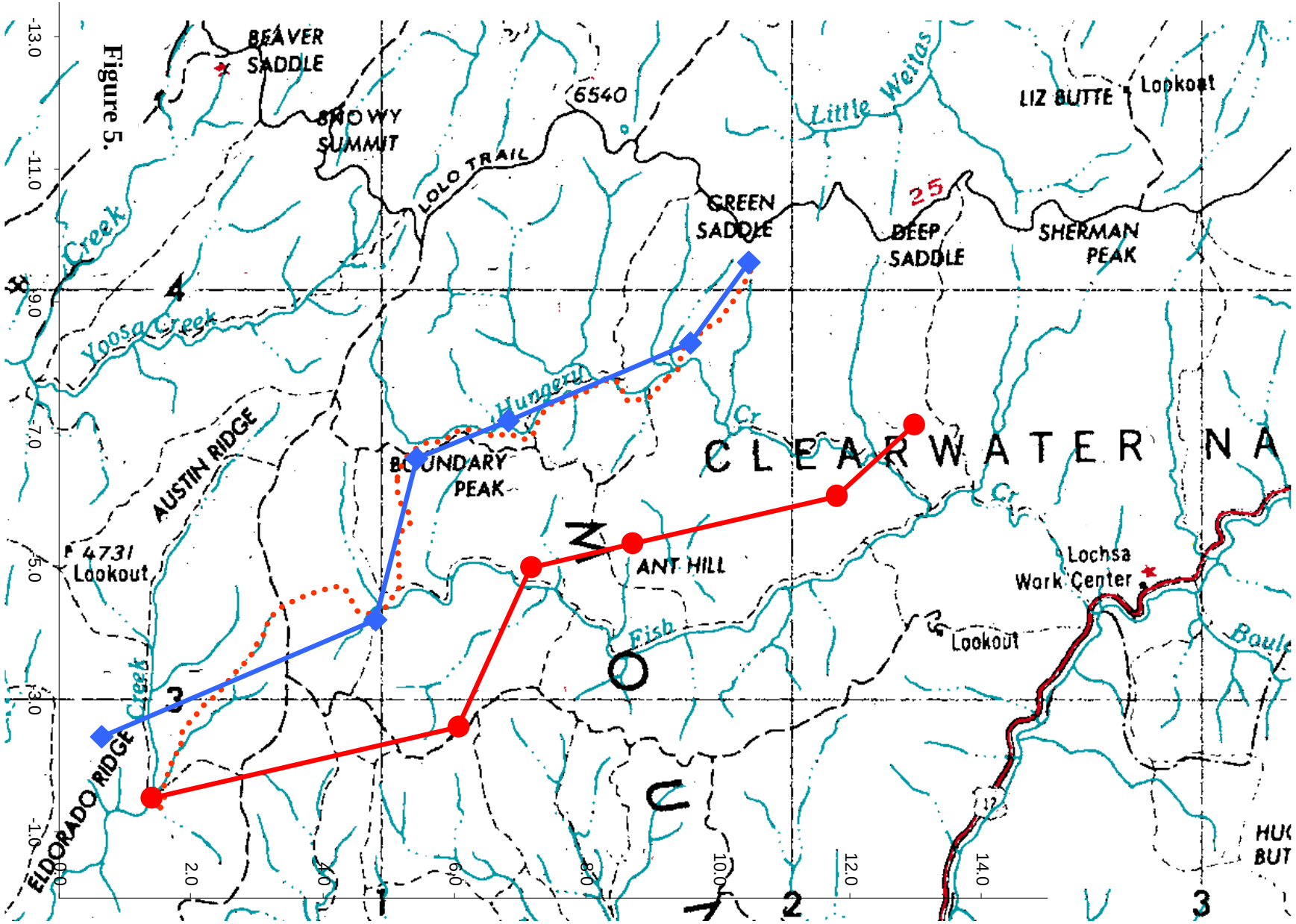

BEAVER SADDLE
BROWY SUMMIT
LOLO TRAIL
6540
Little Weitas
LIZ BUTTE
Lookout
GREEN SADDLE
DEEP SADDLE
SHERMAN PEAK
Yoosa Creek
Hungery Cr
AUSTIN RIDGE
BOUNDARY PEAK
CLEARWATER NA
4731 Lookout
ANT HILL
Lochsa Work Center
Fish
Lookout
ELDORADO RIDGE
Clear Creek
-13.0
-11.0
-9.0
-7.0
-5.0
-3.0
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Figure 5.

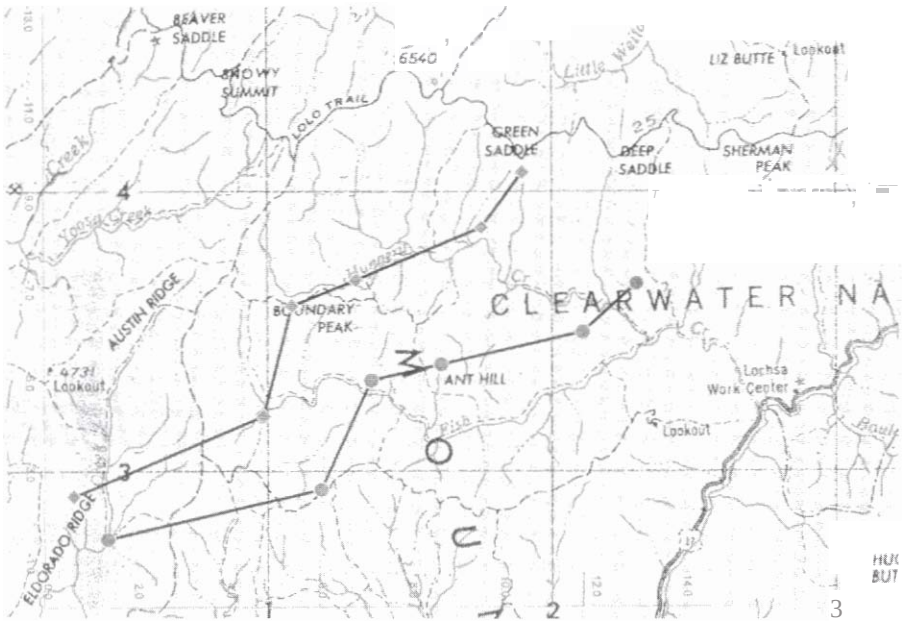

Figure 5. Large-scale modern map of the route, showing the actual trail (dotted line) and the candidate courses and distances based on rhe journals. The Irail (oeation proposed by Space would result in the route shown as connected circles. The location proposed by the author is represented by lines connected with diamonds.

map, using modern geographic placenames, is shown in Figure 3 (page 23). Notice that this map is considerably different from the larger-scale map. This may indicate that Clark's opinion about the topography had changed between the earlier small-scale map and the later large-scale map. Figure 4 (page 24) shows the two maps superimposed to highlight these differences. It was this result that convinced me that the maps would be only marginally useful in locating the trail.

From the small-scale map, we can surmise that Clark is showing that the route went westward up Hungery **Creek to its head and then southwest across the heads** of Fish Creek. From Fish Creek, it crossed high mountains to Eldorado Creek and then proceeded down Eldorado. The trail left Eldorado Creek and crossed over to May Creek where Clark and his small party camped on September 19, 1805. From May Creek, the trail went southwest to Lolo Creek and down the creek for a distance. It then left Lolo Creek and went westward to **the Nez Perce[20] villages on the Weippe Prairie.**

I started the research by doing extensive computer **analysis of all the courses and distances given in the** journals. I went all the way from Eldorado Creek on the **west to Bald Mountain on the east. After extensive analysis and iterative attempts to put all the camps on the map, it became clear to me the following locations** could be accurately determined:

·The camp of June 18-20 and June 24, 1806, now called Salmon Trout Camp at the mouth of Dollar Creek.

·The beautiful meadow in upper Fish Creek where they "nooned" on September 20, 1805 (Lewis), and June 16, 18, and 25,1806. This has no modern name.

·The small meadow on Hungery Creek, north of Windy Saddle, where they camped on June 16, 1806, and where Clark and his party killed a horse on September 19, 1806. This is now called Horsesteak Meadow Camp.

·The camp of June 26, 1806, now called Greensward Camp, located on the south slope of Bald Mountain.

Using these locations as anchor points, I continued to analyze the data in great detail to determine the **remaining locations. Two characteristics about the journal data stand out. First, the distances are often** exaggerated when the travel is particularly difficult- for example, through Hungery Creek. Second, the bear**ings must be corrected for magnetic declination. The** intensely detailed work that I did at this stage involved **many spreadsheet calculations and correlating all geo**graphic references in the journals. These details are **not presented in this paper, however, but a sample of the results is given in Figure 5, which is a map of the** area from upper Eldorado Creek to Sherman Peak.

There are two plots on the map in Figure 5; they **represent different compass corrections and distance** scaling of the journal bearings and distances. The first **plot, shown as diamonds connected by straight lines, is the courses and distances from Moulton's edition of** the journals (Volume 8, page xx), corrected for the **direction of magnetic declination and distance scaled** by a factor of 0.55. This is the plot that convinced me

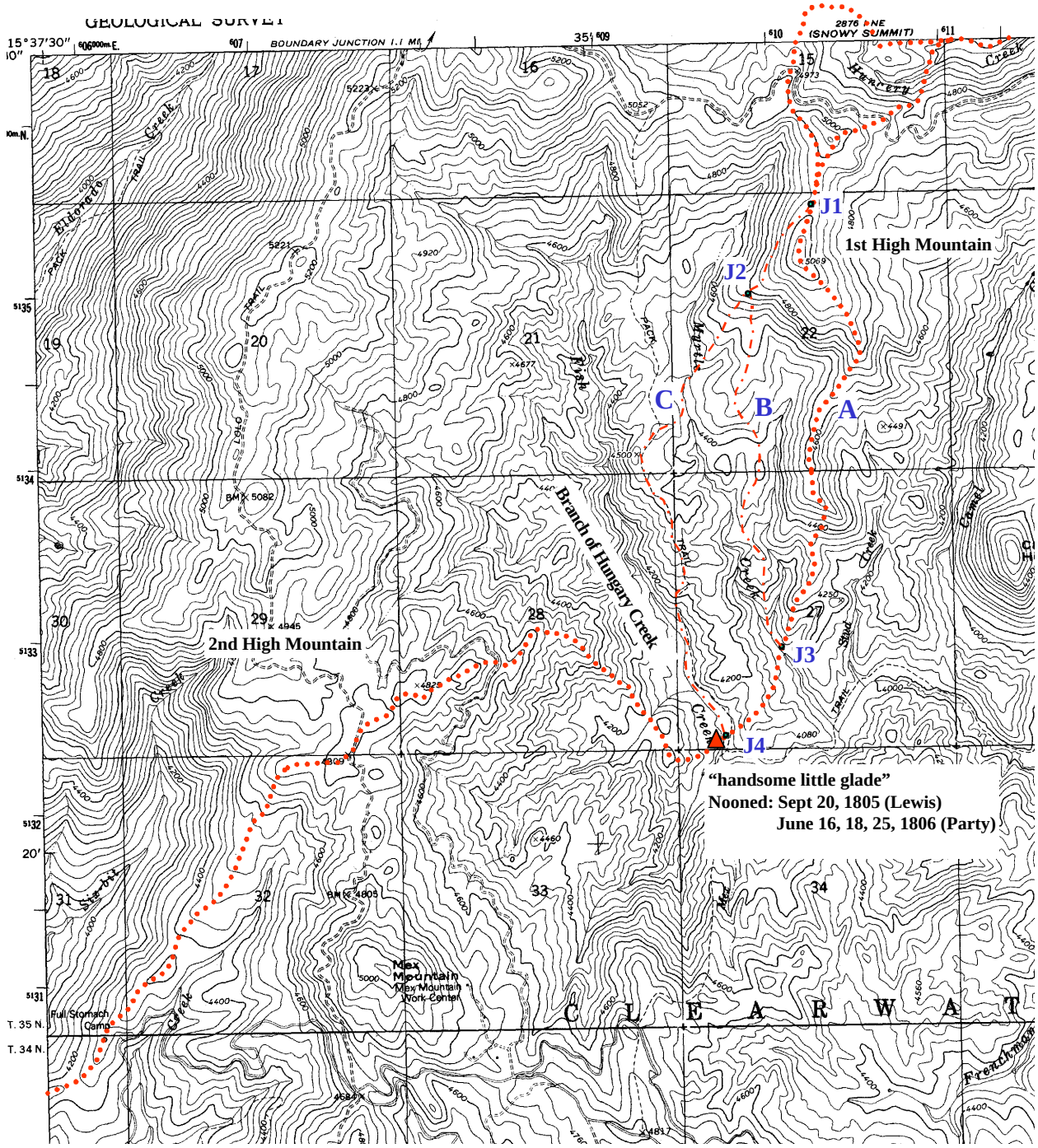

Figure 6. Detailed topographic map of the trail location through Fish Creek Meadows.

that their route did not go down Willow Ridge–and the plot that supports my location of the trail.

The second plot, shown as circles connected by lines, is the journal courses corrected by two degrees and the distance scaled by a factor of 0.53. These are the modifications that would be needed to place Snowbank Cache at the south end of Willow Ridge. This is the plot that would apply to the route proposed by both Ralph Space and John Peebles. It should be obvious that there is something wrong with this route. It places the trail well south of Hungery Creek and does not agree with the descriptions given in the journals.

The next step in my work was to do extensive field explorations over the candidate trail routes. I have made numerous trips into Fish and Hungery Creeks to explore for the old trail treads. I began by exploring the sidehills on upper Hungery Creek and found a nice tread on the north side of the creek all the way from Horsesteak Meadows Camp to the forks of the creek. The trail then headed southward but became obscured by some logging activity below the Boundary Peak Road. I searched the entire north slope of the creek and found two faint, fragmented trail treads going southward and crossing the road. Since the trail was hard to find, I decided to go to Fish Creek and find the trail in and out of the meadows.

The route westward from Fish Creek Meadows was easy to find in spite of numerous cow trails that remain from the cow-camp days. It follows the east-west meandering ridge line all the way to the main north-south ridge where Forest Road 500 was constructed. In this exploration, I discovered a major error in the topographic map. The small creek shown to the northwest of the meadow does not pass through the ridge as shown, but loops to the southeast.

The trail tread northward was another matter. There were so many cow trails that it seemed a major undertaking to trace them all to see which one follows

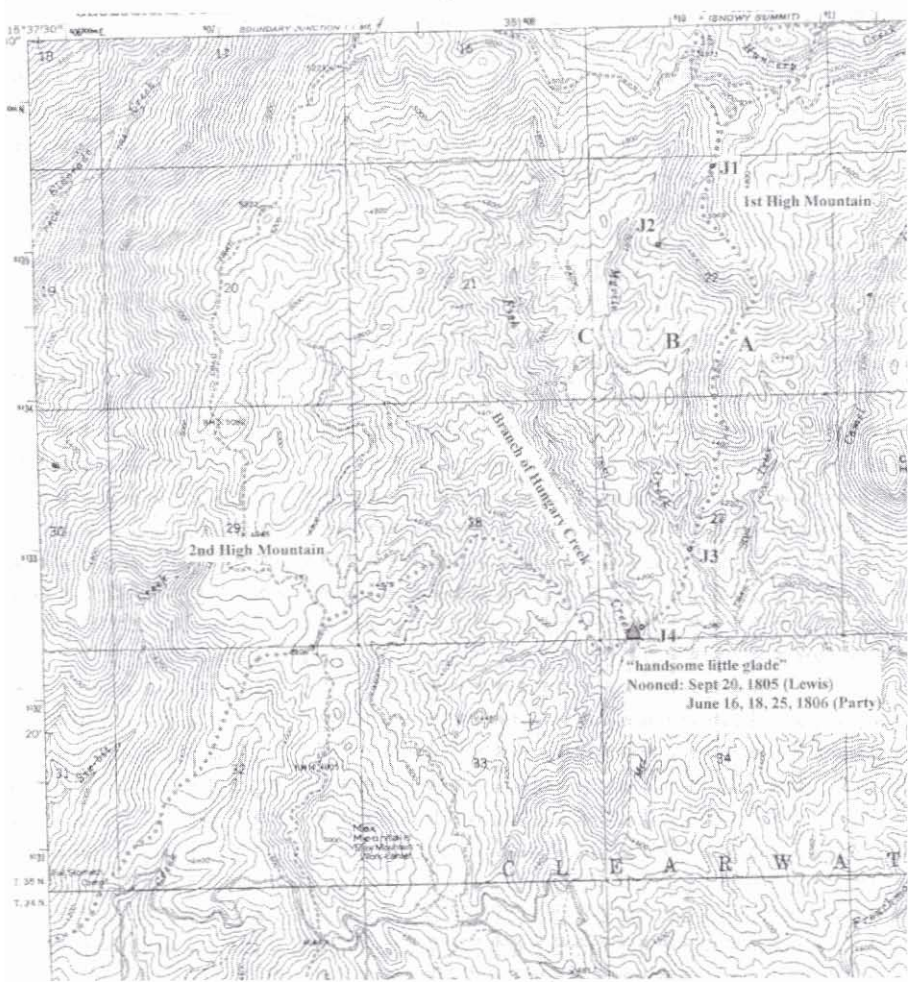

Figure 6. Detailed topographic map of the frail location through Fish Creek Meadows.

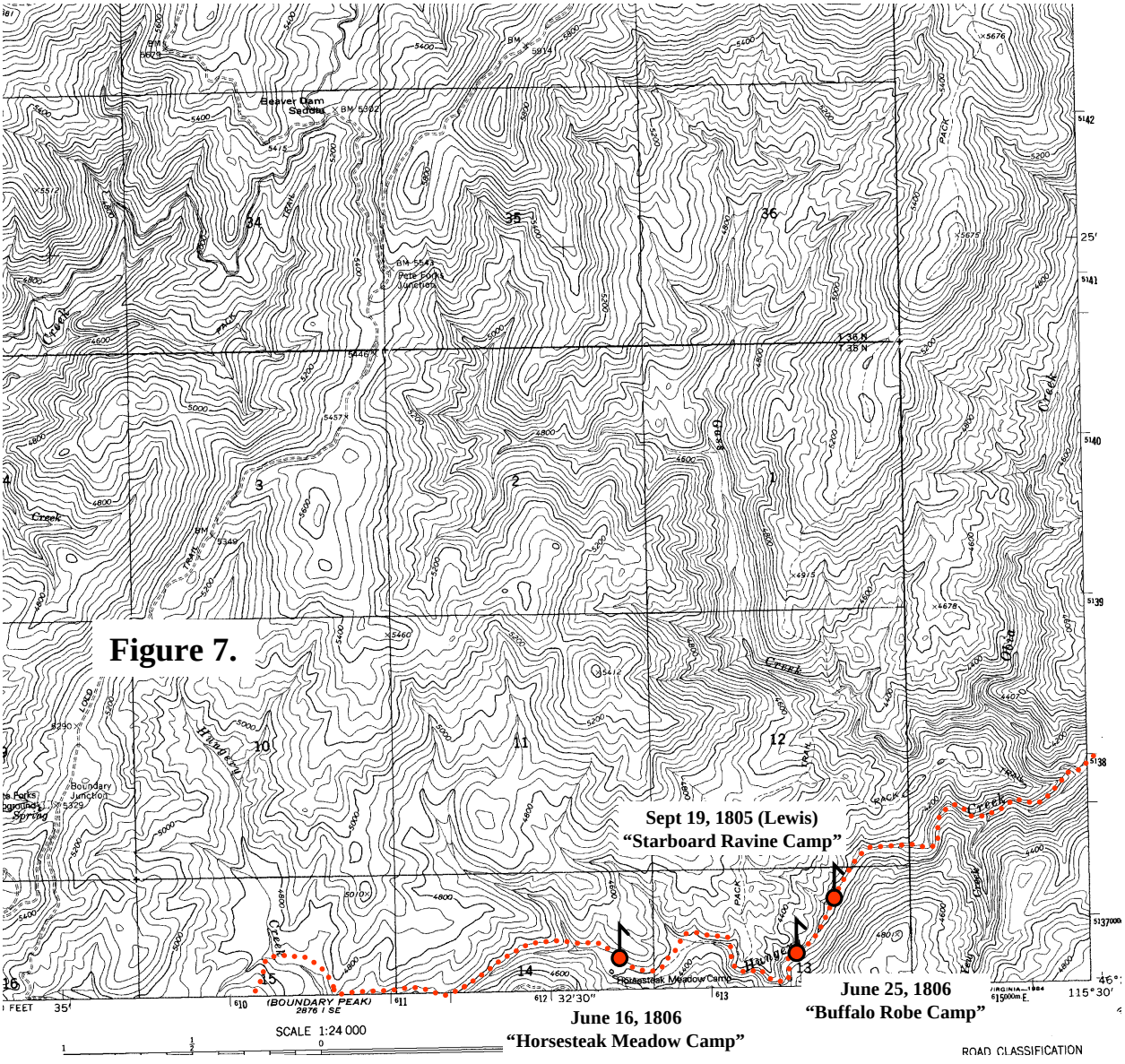
Figure 7.
Sept 19, 1805 (Lewis)
"Starboard Ravine Camp"
June 16, 1806
"Horsesteak Meadow Camp"
June 25, 1806
"Buffalo Robe Camp"
Horsesteak Meadow Camp
(BOUNDARY PEAK)
2876 I SE
SCALE 1:24 000
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

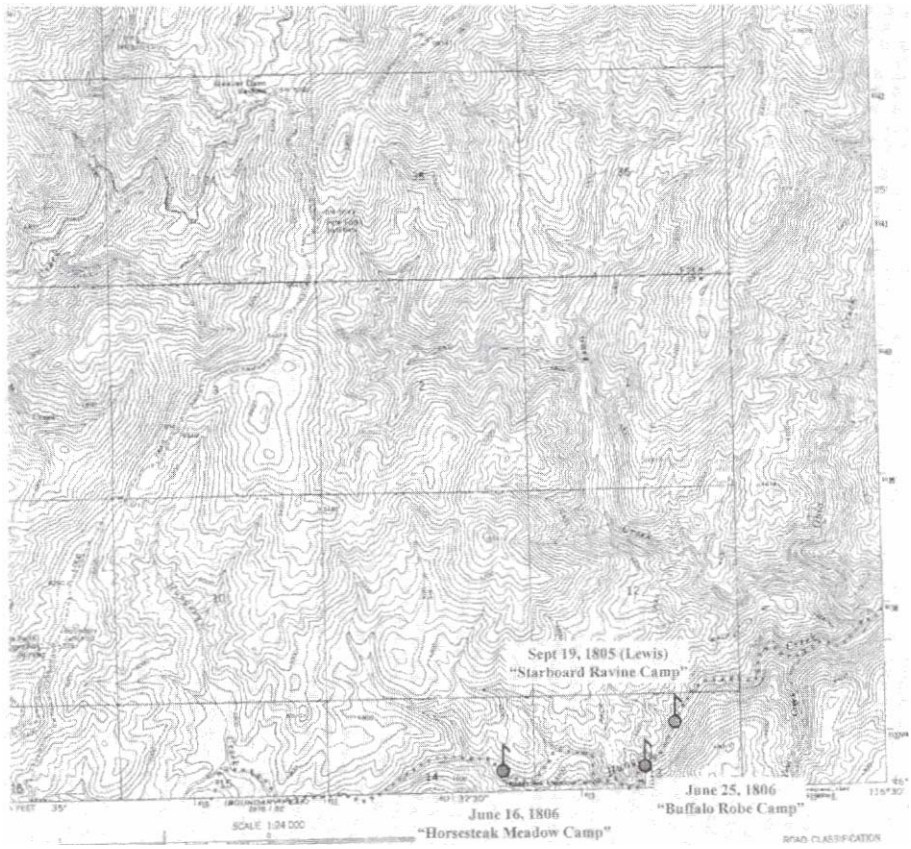

Figure 7. Detailed topographic map of the trail location through upper Hungry Creek.

the route detennined by computer. I then hit upon the idea of returning to upper Hungery Creek and continuing my search southward. My logic was that the cow trails would be minimal until I got close to the **meadow and I could then sort out the correct trail. This** strategy was very successful, as I was able to follow the old trail right to the meadow.

Figure 6 (page 26) is a detailed topographic map of the route through Fish Creek, showing the crossing of both Myrtle Creek and the north branch of Fish Creek. After further exploration of the area, studying aerial photos of 1933-34 taken to help plot the route of U.S. Highway 12, and finding old flagging, I concluded that **two other routes were also possible. The junctions for** these three routes are labeled J1-J4. The route I first fol-Iowed, and the one I believe to be the correct one, is labeled with an "A" and connects junctions JI, 13, and J4. The route that was flagged with old flagging but did not have detectable tread is labeled with a "B" and connects junctions J2 and 13. Finally, cultural and archaeological evidence can support the route being the one labeled "C" that connects junctions J2 and J4. **Until further research shows otherwise, I believe route "A" is the correct one. There are no encampments in** this pan of the trail, but there is the "handsome little glade" where they nooned so many times.

Figure 7 shows a detailed topographic map of upper Hungery Creek. The trail stayed along the steep sidehills and bottoms of Hungery Creek. There are three **camps in this segment as shown in the figure. The** toughest pan of the trail is the mile between the June 25 camp and the mouth of Yew Creek. I once had to abandon a hike in that area because of slick and dan**gerous conditions caused by wet, moss-Qovered rocks** and dense brush. The camp locations were roughly detemnined by computer analysis of the data and then refined by field explorations.

Lower Hungery Creek and the ridge Of Snowbank Cache are shown in the detailed topographic map of Figure 8 (page 28). Locating the "FOOL of the Moun**tain" made it much easier to locate the two campsites** indicated on the map. Both campsites offer *only* a small amount of horse feed, but they are "roomy" by the expedition's standards and were probably appreciated. The June 17 camp is in the broad creek bottom. The September 18 camp is a little out of the creek bottom and

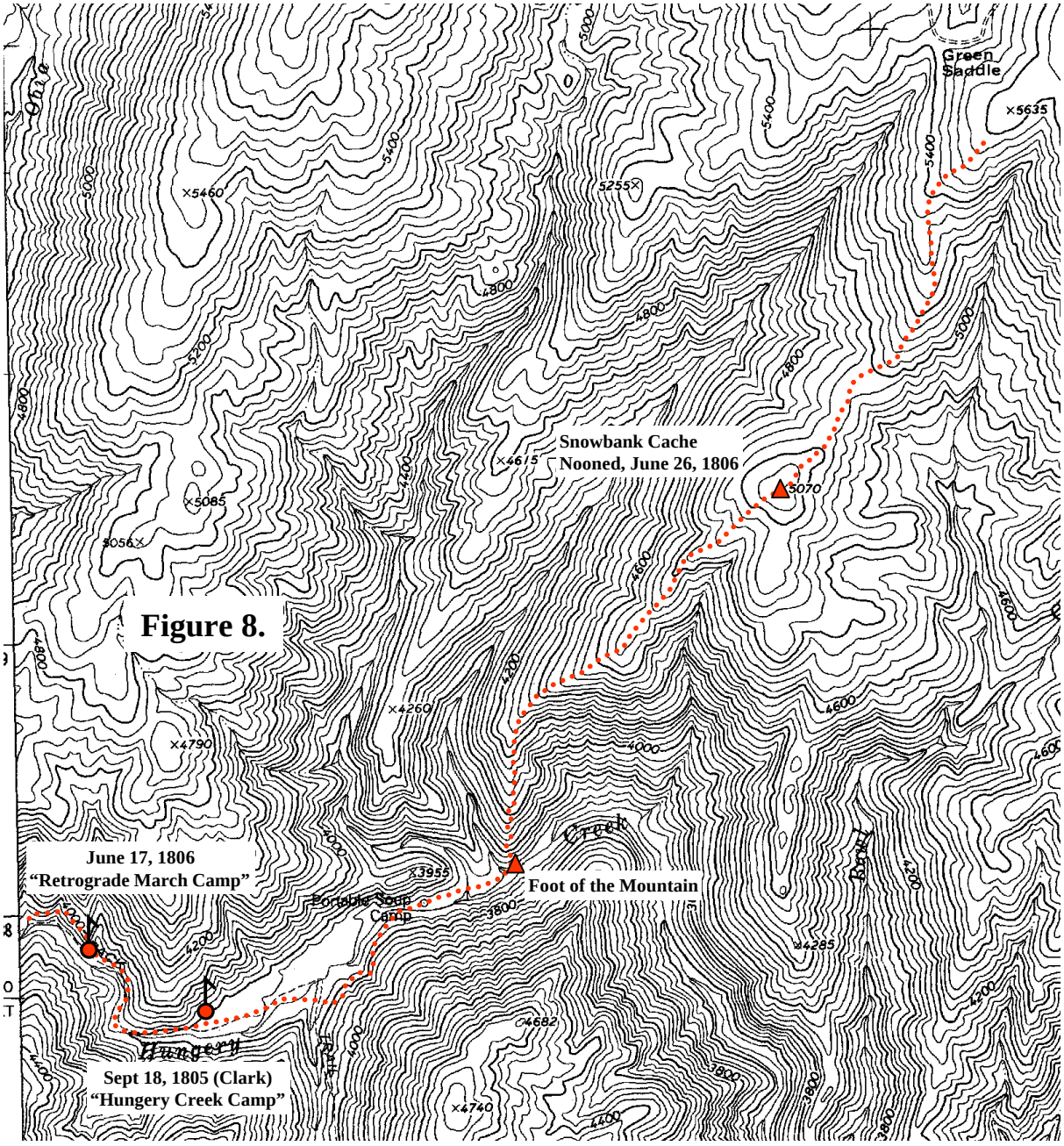
Green Saddle
×5635
×5460
5255×
×4615
Snowbank Cache
Nooned, June 26, 1806
3070
×5085
3056×
×4260
×4790
June 17, 1806
"Retrograde March Camp"
×3955
Portable Soup Camp
Foot of the Mountain
Creek
Beaver
×4285
×4682
Hungery
Sept 18, 1805 (Clark)
"Hungery Creek Camp"
×4740

Figure 8.

in a small bench area. The trail tread north of the foot of the mountain is very distinct and shows the serpentine pattern so characteristic of the orthern ez Perce Trail as it goes up and down steep places. Snowbank Cache is on a broad point about halfway up to Bowl BUlle. It has the look and "feel" of the kind of place where the scaffolding that Lewis mentions (June 17) can be easily erected in the deep snow.

Figure 9 (page 29) is a large-scale map showing the entire trail tread and campsites between the June 18th camp on Eldorado Creek and Snowbank Cache.

Exploring the Route

The route through Fish Creek meadows can be followed by experienced bushwhackers, but the route through Hungery Creek between Horsesteak Meadow Camp and the September 18 camp is very difficult and risks of injury or death are significant. Travel through Hungery Creek ***is not recommended.***

The map of Figure 10 (page 30) is included to show the significant modem placenames, roads, and trails along the route. Site # 1 is Horsesteak Meadows camp. Tt can be reached from Road 500 by going to Boundary Junction and taking Road 485 eastward to Windy Saddle. Park at the saddle and hike Forest Trail #69 northward down to the meadow. There is not much of a meadow there any more, because fires have been suppressed for almost seventy years, but you can still imagine the glade that existed two hundred years ago.

Site #2 is where the party nooned at Fish Creek Meadows. The meadows are accessed by the old Pete King Trail, now referred to as Trail #230 north of Fish Creek and Trail #224 south of Fish Creek. This trail is easily accessed from either Road 485 on the north or a logging road east of Mex Mountain on the south. It is

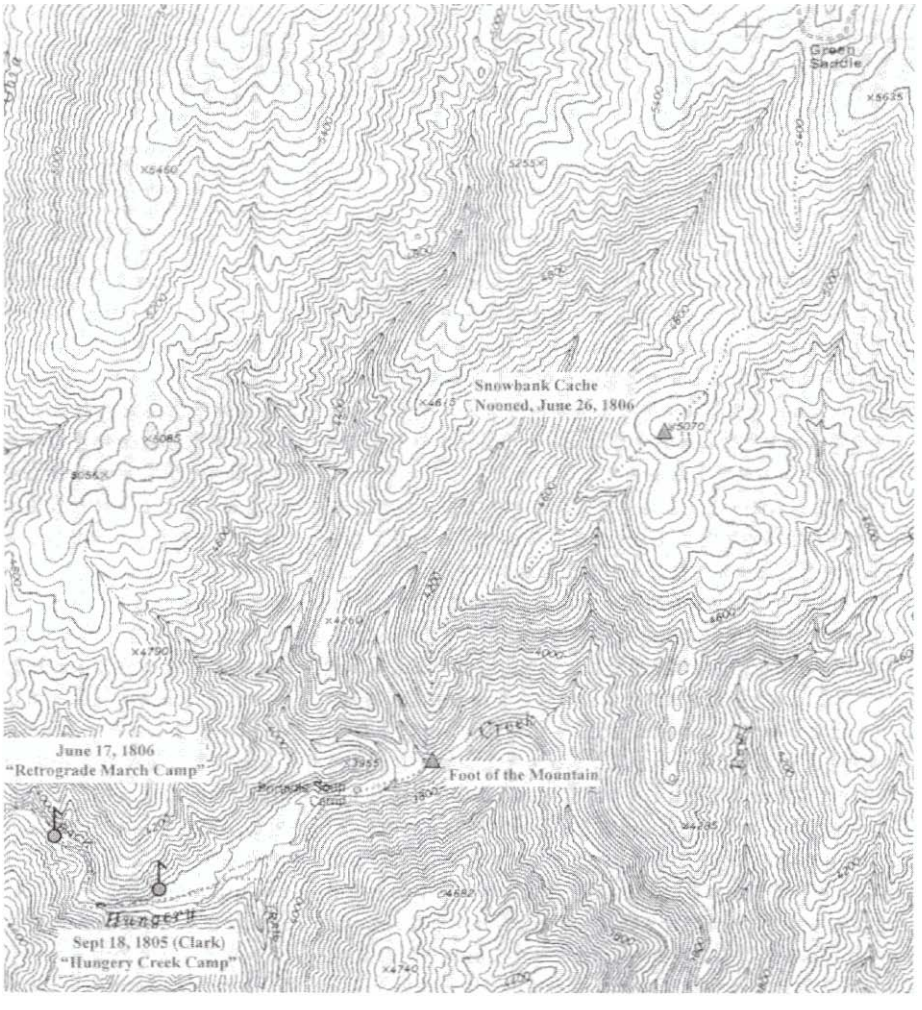

Figure 8. Detailed topographic map of the trai/location through lower Hungry Creek and above the "Foot of the Mountain" to Snowbank Cache.

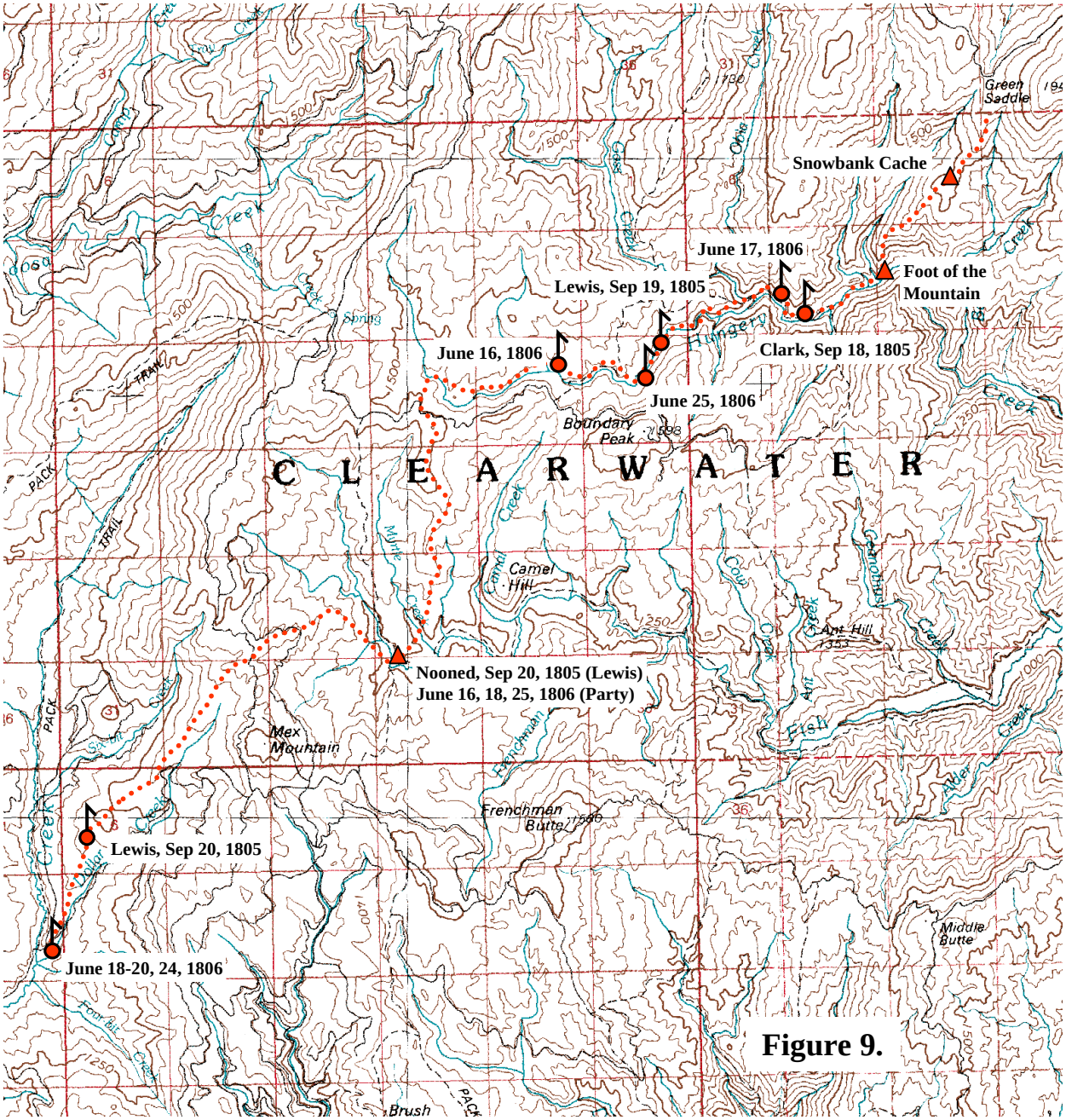
Snowbank Cache
June 17, 1806
Foot of the Mountain
Lewis, Sep 19, 1805
Clark, Sep 18, 1805
June 16, 1806
June 25, 1806
Boundary Peak
C L E A R W A T E R
Nooned, Sep 20, 1805 (Lewis)
June 16, 18, 25, 1806 (Party)
Mex Mountain
Frenchman Butte
Lewis, Sep 20, 1805
June 18-20, 24, 1806
Green Saddle
Camel Hill
Ant Hill
Middle Butte
Brush

Figure 9.

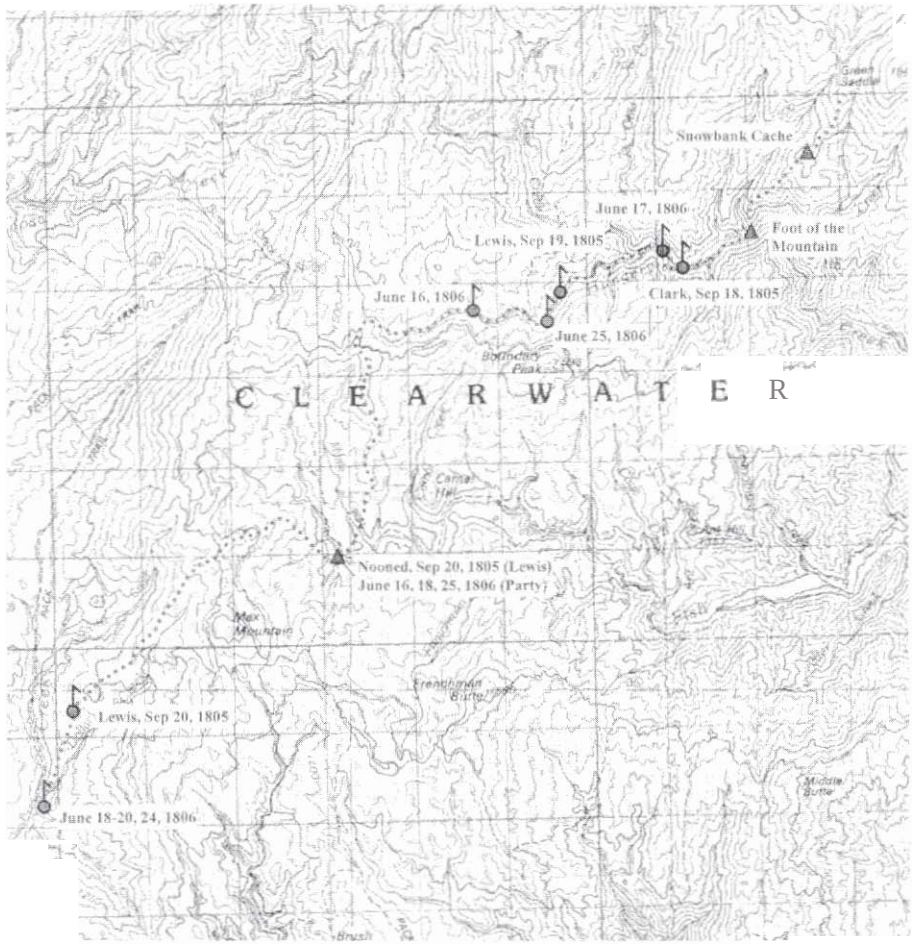
Snowbank Cache
June 17, 1806
Lewis, Sep 19, 1805
Foot of the Mountain
Clark, Sep 18, 1805
June 16, 1806
June 25, 1806
C L E A R W A T E R
Nooned, Sep 20, 1805 (Lewis)
June 16, 18, 25, 1806 (Party)
Lewis, Sep 20, 1805
June 18-20, 24, 1806

Figure 9. Modern topographic map showing the campsites, other significant locations, and the trail-tread location.

a reasonably easy hike and the meadows are extremely enjoyable.

Site#3 is Lewis' ridge camp of September 20, 1805. It is easily reached from Eldorado Creek by parking at the bridge where Road 500 crosses the creek and hiking Trail #25 up the ridge to the northeast. The camp site is a little over a mile from the creek and at a place where there is a broad area with a small knob that the trail goes over.

Site #4 is the camp at the mouth of Dollar Creek and is right along Road 500.

In Conclusion

The routes taken by the Lewis and Clark expedition have histories of their own. ew editions of the expedition's journals, new research, and different research techniques and approaches are giving us greater insights into those details. And this modem exploration-with books, manuscripts, maps, and the land itself as sources-is an adventure of its own. Hungery Creek is certainly not the only location on the Corps of Discovery's routes that has become confused or lost over the years. Slowly but surely, the kind of research and discovery described here is fining the puzzle pieces of those locations into a larger and fuller picture that we will be able to visualize on paper and on screen as well as in our minds.•

lNicholson was a civil engineer for the Lewiston and Virginia City Wagon Road expedition led by Wellington Bird in 1866. They surveyed the route from Weippe Prairie to Lola Pass for the construction of a wagon road, but only a pack trail was ever completed. This trail is now know as the Bird-Truax Trail, named after Bird and the wagon-road engineer. SeweU Truax.

[2]This was proposed to me in a personal communication from Jeff Fee. Clearwater ational Forest Archeologist. Jeff contends that this route would have offered better protection against enemies invading from the east, because it denied them the better access.

3Wheeler was a member of the Minnesota Historical Society and lived in SI. Paul. Minnesota, in April, 1904. He also wrote several promotional publications for Northern Pacific Railroad

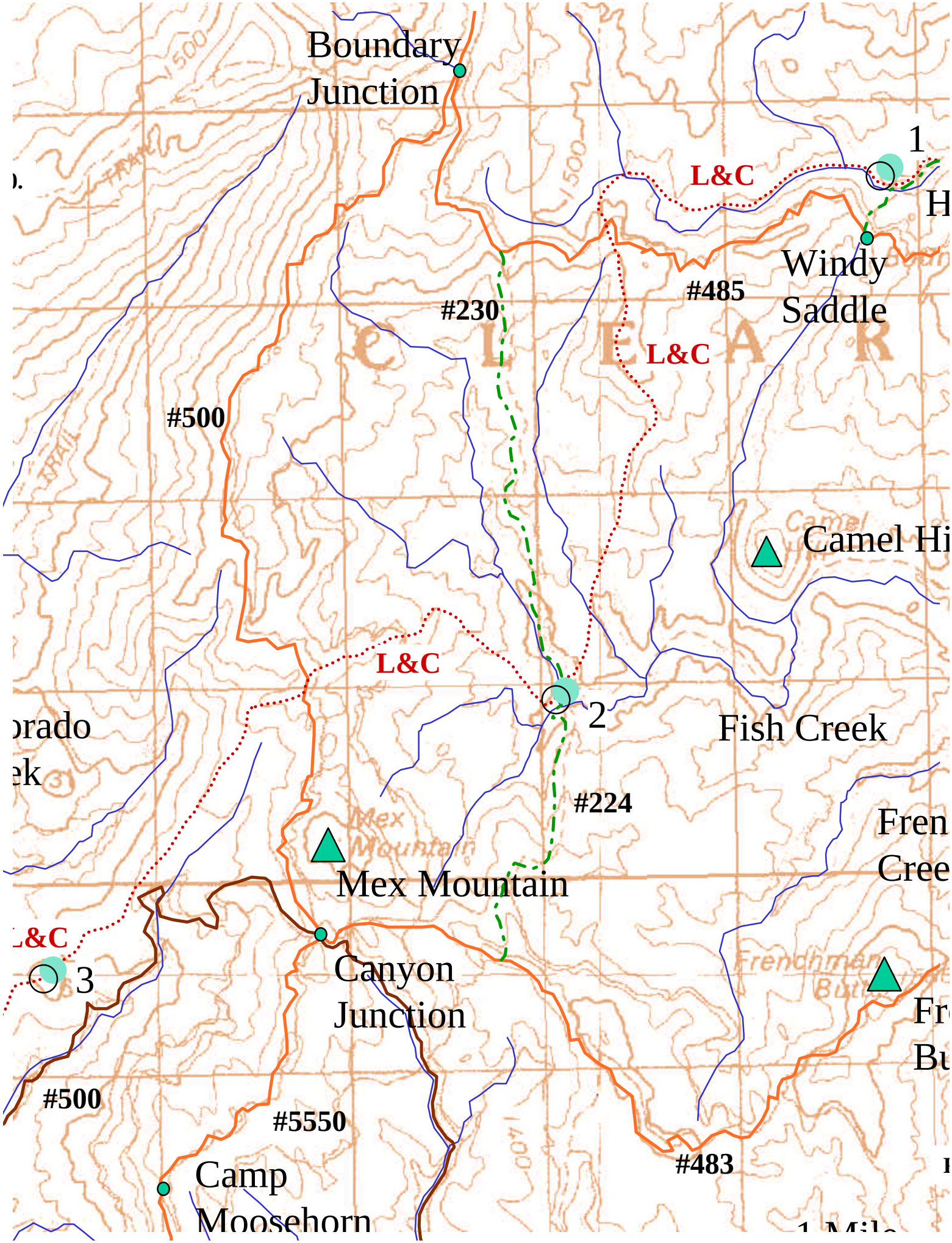
Boundary Junction
1
L&C
Windy Saddle
#485
#230
L&C
#500
Camel Hi
L&C
2
Fish Creek
#224
Mex Mountain
Mex Mountain
3
Canyon Junction
#500
#5550
#483
Camp Moosehorn

Figure /0. Modern map showing the locations of modern place-names, roads, trail tread, and other sites over the route from Eldorado Creek to Hungry Creek. Numbered sites are explained in the text.

western expansion under various lilIes thai included the word "wonderland," Wheeler's location of the Lola Trail has signif-icanl errors. See Olin D. Wheeler, *The Trail of Lewis and Clark. /804-1904*, 2 vols. (1904; reprint, New York: AMS Press, 1976).

4Pete King was a miner and homesteader whose claim lay at the mouth of the creek named for him. For likely origins of this and other names in the area, see Ralph Space, *The Clearwater Story:* A *History of the Clearwater Na/ional Forest* ([Missoula, Momana]: Northern Region, U.S. Forest Service. U.S. Department of Agriculture, [1984]), 221-234.

5All quotations from the journals are taken From Gary E. Moulton. editor, *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition,* 12 volumes (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1983-1999). Key phrases From the journals are highlighted by the present author's italics; those in Lewis' remarks here, in brackets, were written in the journal by someone unknown. Lewis' and Clark's entries about the area for 1805 are in volume 5 and for 1806 in volume 8; Whitehouse's are in volume II, Gass's in volume 10, and Ordway's in volume 9.

6The Corps had quite a time getting started, and they had to abandon their first auempt at the Lola Trail because of heavy snow at the higher elevations. They left the Weippe Prairie on June 15, crossed Fish Creek on June 16, and were stopped by deep snow on the main ridge on June 17. They were mortified to have to tum around and return all the way to Eldorado Creek and then to the Weippe Prairie to wait a few more days for the snow to melt. On their successful attempt, they left Eldorado Creek on June 25 and crossed Fish Creek on their way to their evening camp on Hungery Creek.

70 rdway uses the word "green" here to denote an open, flat grassy area, which is what golf players would call a "putting green" today.

8This is our well know heroine. Sacajawea-or, if preferred, Sacagawea or Sakakawea. James Ronda has an excellent section about her role with the expedition and the spelling of her name in his book *Lewis and Clark Among the Indians* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1984). The name for her used by Clark on his map for the Musselshell River area of Montana (Moulton, *Journals,* Volume I, Map 51) is given phonetically as Sar-kar-gah We-â, which he translates as "Bird Woman." Clark in his journal entry for April 7, 1805, gives her name as Sah-kah-gar we â, although Moulton believes this may be a later addition (4: 13 nI2). There are many opinions and much re-search on how her name is spelled and pronounced. I believe it is best to follow Clark and render her English name as Bird Woman.

9The topographic map and Forest Service visitOr maps for the trail have named the June IS, 1806, camp on Hungery creek for the "Jerusolem Artichoke" described and found at this meadow on Fish Creek. This is a mislabeling of the true loca-tion, and I believe the name should be dropped from use. My name for that camp is Buffalo Robe Camp in recognition of Clark's gift of a buffalo robe to a Nez Perce man who was ill that evening.

lOLouis F. Hartig, *Lochsa: The Story of a Ranger Distric t and Its People in Clearwater National Forest* (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1989), 13.

IIIbid.

12Hungery Creek was called Obia ("Obee") Creek in the early years of the Forest Service. Ralph Space states that the name derived from a prospector in the area: Space, *Clearwater Story*. 230. The name for the main creek was later changed back to Hungery (or Hungry) Creek, but the northern fork still retains the Obia name.

13My infonnation about this area comes from hiking it (the cow trails are very deep) and talking with a number of people familiar with the area and the people who have used it. I have not tracked down the history of the Jackson family except to find that Terry Jackson of Kamiah is the grandson of the original founders of the cow camp. Jackson's Cow Camp is still shown on government maps.

14The major figures were Elliott Coues, Olin Wheeler, and Reuben G. Thwaites. I have not studied Coues.

15With the help of Larry Jones at the Idaho State Historical Society, J have compiled most of the articles into a paper that will eventually be published.

161 met Ralph toward the end of his life and visited him a few times at his home in Orofino, Idaho. We talked many hours about the Lola Trail and he had an amazing recall of some of its locations. While Ralph was a university student, he was on a summer survey crew that surveyed the Bird-Truax tread of the Lola Trail system. It was his efforts that resulted in the trail tread location and campsites now published in Forest Service maps and literature. In our conversations, Ralph seemed to be more interested in the campsites and possible artifacts along the trail than the actual trail tread location. This was encourage·

ment to me to continue my pursuit of the trail-tread research. By coincidence, Ralph's family and my grandfather had been neighbors for many years on ranches north of Weippe, Idaho. Ralph's books on the Lolo Trail and the Clearwater country are given in the bibliography. In his articles "Lewis and Clark Through Idaho," Space credits Elliott Coues, Olin Wheeler, Jack Harlan, and Elers Koch with significant contributions to locating the Lolo Trail route.

"Peebles's material was originally published in this journal in the issues for Summer, 1964; Winter, 1965-66; and Summer, 1966. The compiled version, now out of print, is listed in the bibliography.

[18]Thomas Sutherland, a war correspondent with General O. O. Howard during the Nez Perce war, made me chuckle when he commented that the distances between Nicholson's mile posts were great and that the engineers must be in league with those wanting further money for the wagon road because of the extraordinary length of the miles. Sutherland must not have known that these were actual surveyed distances. His comments give us evidence that miles on the old Lolo Trail seemed mighty long.

[19]The image shown in from Map 30, Part iii from Vol. 8 of the Thwaites edition of the journals. In the Moulton edition, it is maps 70 & 71 in Vol. I.

[2]The large-scale map called these the "pierced nose villages" but the small-scale map called them the "Flathead Villages." Perhaps Clark considered the Nez Perce to be part of the Bitterroot Salish tribe and thus called them "Flathead." He must have realized that they were different when he did the large-scale map.

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The trail tread through the Hungry Creek-Fish Creek area, as it appeared in the summer of 1999. *Photo courtesy Larry Jones.*